

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 17, 2004. Claims 1-9 are pending and stand rejected in the Application. Claims 1 and 3-9 are amended, and Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

The Specification was objected to because of a typographical informality. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Prior Art Figure 7. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art FIG. 7 in view of Japanese Utility Model No. 63-104982. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art FIG. 7 in view of JP 63-104982 and further in view of JP 60-058270. Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art FIG. 7 in view of JP 63-104982 and further in view of JP 60-058270. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art FIG. 7 in view of JP 63-104982. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art FIG. 7 in view of JP 63-104982 and JP 60-058270.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on March 11, 2004. During the interview, Amendments to the claims as herein presented were proposed, and arguments as hereinafter developed were presented. Applicants have discovered the novel and advantageous feature that draw forming the panel door at the recited positions eliminate the need for a sheet metal part placed between the door panel and the heat insulating foam material, thereby reducing the cost of the door, its weight, and the number of parts needed, while reducing heat loss. See, for example,

support for the claimed subject matter and a discussion of these features in Applicants Specification, page 1, line 11 – page 3, line 2, and page 8, lines 13-21.

Based on a discussion of these features during the personal interview, an agreement was reached. The Examiner, Ms. Yvonne Horton, indicated in the personal interview summary (form PTO 413) that “the applicant’s representative proposed amending the claims to exclude the metal member and to incorporate that the draw forming percentage is in the range of 4 to 16%. The applicant’s attorney addressed a letter of “Written Opposition,” this matter will be considered upon submittal. The proposed amendments appeared to read over the art cited in the rejections; however upon receipt of the amended claims an updated search will be performed accordingly.

Applicants have herein amended a paragraph of the Specification in order to correct the typographical informality noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration to the objection of Applicants’ Specification.

Applicants have amended herein the independent claims of this Application to recite the subject matter agreed upon during the personal interview. In view of the present amendment to the claims and the results of the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation and obviousness rejections are now moot. Their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

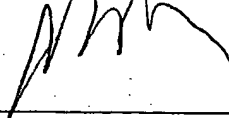
Applicants respectfully bring to the Attention of the Examiner that an IDS filed on this Application on February 6, 2004 has not been acknowledged. If necessary, Applicants are in a position to resubmit copies of that IDS and the date-stamped filing receipt, documenting that the IDS was properly filed on that date. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to inform Applicants’ representatives at the earliest convenient time about the need to resend copies of the IDS filing documents.

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Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2004

Based at least on the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe the present application is  
in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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